

**CALL TO CONSCIENCE VIGIL—
IDA NUDEL**

HON. WALTER E. FAUNTROY

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 1984

• Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with the call to conscience vigil, I wish to speak once again to the situation of that courageous refusenik, Ms. Ida Nudel, suffering in exile at the hands of the Soviet authorities. When I last addressed the plight of Ms. Ida Nudel, on the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Concern for Soviet Jewry on March 15, 1984, she was being denied her mail and visitors in her place of exile in the Moldavian town of Bendery.

I am pleased to report that while Ms. Nudel remains in exile and still is subjected to state surveillance and harassment, she was permitted to receive a birthday visit from actress Jane Fonda. Ms. Nudel said of Ms. Fonda's visit, "You have made me safe."

Mr. Speaker, we also must continue to try to make Ms. Nudel safe by raising the case time and time again, thus keeping it in the public conscience, and on our diplomatic agenda with the Soviet Union.

I know my colleagues share my concern for the human rights of Ms. Ida Nudel and that she will not be forgotten.●

**ABANDONED SHIPWRECK ACT
OF 1984**

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 1984

• Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to rise today and speak on behalf of legislation that I was honored and privileged to cosponsor, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1984.

For some time now, there has been confusion about who has authority to manage certain abandoned shipwrecks located on submerged State lands. Many States have statutes claiming title to and regulation over abandoned historic shipwrecks but the Federal courts have differed as to the validity of these statutes. Some Federal courts have ruled that these State statutes are valid, while other decisions have supported private citizens who seek to invoke Federal admiralty and salvage law to claim interests in historic shipwrecks.

Clearly, for the sake of preserving these relics of the past, something had to be done to establish a single legal regime governing certain abandoned shipwrecks within State waters while preserving traditional admiralty law for all other classes of shipwrecks.

The Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1984 does this by giving to States title to certain abandoned shipwrecks that are buried in State lands or have historical significance and are on State land. The legislation declares that the law of salvage does not apply to these abandoned shipwrecks, reaffirms Federal ownership of abandoned shipwrecks on Federal lands and directs the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to develop guidelines to assist the States and the Federal Government in carrying out their responsibilities and to allow for noninjurious recreational exploration and private sector recovery of shipwreck sites.

As a Congressman from a district whose coastline waters are rich with historical shipwrecks, I believe it is critical to preserve and protect these structures. These remnants of the past are important icons of seminal cultures and economies. They offer future generations a firm historical foundation and an understanding of why and how we became the civilization we are today.

Such understanding and knowledge should not be left to the ebb and flow of confusing jurisdictional battles between Federal and State government. This legislation offers a rational and fair game plan for the preservation of these structures of historical significance.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIAS KARMON

HON. MARIO BIAGGI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 1984

• Mr. BIAGGI. Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored today to pay a special 75th birthday tribute to one of our Nation's truly outstanding citizens, Bronx community activist Elias Karmon.

Businessman, philanthropist, and civic activist are some of the words used to describe Elias Karmon, but they tell only part of the story behind this dynamic figure. At a time when much emphasis is being placed on voluntarism, it should be noted that Elias Karmon wrote the book. Committed to making the Bronx a better place to work and live, Elias has served on a voluntary basis with dozens of community organizations, which share his deep resolve. For example, he has served as president of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce; president of the Bronx Rotary Club; chairman of the Bronx Council of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; vice president of the American Jewish Congress, Bronx Division; chairman of the executive committee of the Bronx Boys' Club; chairman of Vacations and Community Services for the Blind; and chairman of the advisory committee of the Bronx Venture Corp., a nonprofit development corporation in the South Bronx.

In addition, he currently serves on the board of directors of the Ponce De Leon Federal Savings & Loan Association, Bronx House, the YMCA, the Fordham Road Area Development Corp., Regional Aid for Interim Needs [RAIN], the South Bronx Mental Health Council, the Pelham Parkway Mall Local Development Corp., the Bronx Dance Theatre, the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp., and the Pelham Parkway Jewish Center.

He is also a past chairman of the Bronx Urban League Advisory Board. In fact, this past February, the New York Urban League cited Mr. Karmon as a "charter member and founder of the Bronx office of the New York Urban League," and they saluted him for more than 35 years of dedicated service and leadership on behalf of his fellow men.

His vital community services have not gone unnoticed. He has received countless awards, including the coveted Jefferson Award for Public Service in 1979, and his tireless devotion to his community has made him something of a local legend. But awards and prominence are not what Elias Karmon seeks. The fruits of his work are not the accolades he receives, but rather the community improvements he helps achieve. Certainly, he appreciated the fact that the new Lincoln Medical Center board conference room was named in his honor, but the real satisfaction came from knowing the people of his community would have a new medical facility to better meet their vital health care needs.

Even the work he has performed for pay has demonstrated his raging desire to give something useful to his community, to help the Bronx grow. He builds parking lots, and is a developer of office buildings for use by public and private agencies. He is currently President of EMK Enterprises Inc., a real estate firm based at the same south Bronx office he has conducted his business ventures since 1940.

Elias Karmon's deep compassion for his fellow man is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that for many years beginning in 1959, he would throw a huge Christmas party for over 3,000 local children at a community theater. After 45 years of these and other similar deeds, I am pleased to report that this same unselfish spirit lives on, not only at Christmas time, but every single day of the year.

The Bronx community, which I am proud to represent, is a far better place thanks to Elias Karmon and as long as Elias has even an ounce of energy left, we can be certain that the Bronx will continue to improve. Thank you for caring so much Elias and may you and your lovely wife Sylvia, share that same happiness you have given so many others—for many years to come.●